

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving at an Identity System a request for a first certificate related action for a first user wherein the first certificate related action is selected from a group consisting of a certificate enrollment action, a certificate renewal action, and a certificate revocation action;

retrieving by the Identity System a first workflow for responding to said request from a plurality of workflows for responding to requests for certificate related actions, wherein each workflow in said plurality of workflows corresponds to a different set of characteristics for a user, wherein the first workflow contains a first set of directives and a second workflow in said plurality of workflows contains a second set of directives, wherein said first set of directives is different from said second set of directives, wherein said first workflow calls for obtaining an approval before performing a certificate related action for users having a first user type, wherein said second workflow does not call for obtaining an approval before performing a certificate related action for users having a second user type, and wherein retrieving the first workflow further comprises selecting the first workflow from the plurality of workflows based on the first certificate related action and a user type of the first user from a set of characteristics for the first user from an identity profile for the first user maintained by the Identity System being the first user type; ~~and~~

performing said first workflow, wherein performing said first workflow comprises retrieving an approval response from an entity associated with the first user and identified in the identity profile for the first user and obtaining a certificate and a real time status for the certificate from a certificate authority based on the approval response; and

storing the certificate and said real time status in the Identity System, wherein the certificate authority is external to the Identity System.

2.-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
receiving said plurality of workflows.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
receiving a second request for a second certificate related action for a second user  
wherein the second certificate related action is selected from a group consisting of a certificate  
enrollment action, a certificate renewal action, and a certificate revocation action;

retrieving the second workflow for responding to said second request from said  
plurality of workflows, wherein retrieving the second workflow further comprises selecting the  
second workflow from the plurality of workflows based on the second certificate related action a  
user type of the second user from a set of characteristics for the second user from an identity  
profile for the second user maintained by the Identity System being the second user type; and  
performing said second workflow, wherein performing said second workflow  
comprises:

obtaining a second certificate without retrieving an approval response.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein said first  
certificate related action is a certificate enrollment action and said second certificate related  
action is a certificate enrollment action.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein said first  
certificate related action is a certificate renewal action and said second certificate related action  
is a certificate renewal action.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
performing said first workflow, wherein said first certificate related action is a  
certificate enrollment action and wherein performing said first workflow comprises:

obtaining a certificate, wherein obtaining the certificate comprises  
    authenticating said first user;  
    forwarding said request to a Certificate Processing Server;  
    receiving said certificate; and  
    storing said certificate.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
performing said first workflow, wherein said first certificate related action is a  
certificate renewal action and wherein performing said first workflow comprises:

obtaining a certificate renewal, wherein obtaining the certificate renewal  
comprises:

    authenticating said first user;  
    forwarding said request to a Certificate Processing Server;  
    receiving a certificate renewal acknowledgement.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
performing said first workflow, wherein said first certificate related action is a  
certificate revocation action and wherein performing said first workflow comprises:

    revoking a certificate, wherein revoking the certificate comprises:  
        authenticating said first user; and  
        forwarding said request to a Certificate Processing Server.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) One or more processor readable storage devices  
having processor readable code embodied on said processor readable storage devices, said

processor readable code for programming one or more processors to perform a method comprising:

receiving at an Identity System a request for a first certificate related action for a first user wherein the first certificate related action is selected from a group consisting of a certificate enrollment action, a certificate renewal action, and a certificate revocation action;

retrieving by the Identity System a first workflow for responding to said request from a plurality of workflows for responding to requests for certificate related actions, wherein each workflow in said plurality of workflows corresponds to a different set of characteristics for a user, wherein the first workflow contains a first set of directives and a second workflow in said plurality of workflows contains a second set of directives, wherein said first set of directives is different from said second set of directives, wherein said first workflow calls for obtaining an approval before performing a certificate related action for users having a first user type, wherein said second workflow does not call for obtaining an approval before performing a certificate related action for users having a second user type, and wherein retrieving the first workflow further comprises selecting the first workflow from the plurality of workflows based on the first certificate related action and a user type of the first user from a set of characteristics for the first user from an identity profile for the first user maintained by the Identity System being the first user type; ~~and~~

performing said first workflow, wherein performing said first workflow comprises retrieving an approval response from an entity associated with the first user and identified in the identity profile for the first user and obtaining a certificate and a real time status for the certificate from a certificate authority based on the approval response; and

storing the certificate and said real time status in the Identity System, wherein the certificate authority is external to the Identity System.

17.-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 16, wherein said method further comprises:

receiving said plurality of workflows.

21. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 16, wherein said method further comprises:

receiving a second request for a second certificate related action for a second user wherein the second certificate related action is selected from a group consisting of a certificate enrollment action, a certificate renewal action, and a certificate revocation action;

retrieving the second workflow for responding to said second request from said plurality of workflows, wherein retrieving the second workflow further comprises selecting the second workflow from the plurality of workflows based on the second certificate related action a user type of the second user from a set of characteristics for the second user from an identity profile for the second user maintained by the Identity System being the second user type; and

performing said second workflow, wherein performing said second workflow comprises:

obtaining a second certificate without retrieving an approval response.

22. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 21, wherein said first certificate related action is a certificate enrollment action and said second certificate related action is a certificate enrollment action.

23. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 16, wherein said method further comprises:

performing said first workflow, wherein said first certificate related action is a certificate enrollment action and wherein performing said first workflow comprises:

obtaining a certificate, wherein obtaining the certificate comprises:

authenticating said first user;

forwarding said request to a Certificate Processing Server;

receiving said certificate; and

storing said certificate.

24. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 16, wherein said method further comprises:

performing said first workflow, wherein said first certificate related action is a certificate renewal action and wherein performing said first workflow comprises:

obtaining a certificate, wherein obtaining the certificate comprises  
authenticating said first user;  
forwarding said request to a Certificate Processing Server; and  
receiving a certificate renewal acknowledgement.

25. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 16, wherein said method further comprises:

performing said first workflow, wherein said first certificate related action is a certificate revocation action and wherein performing said first workflow comprises:

revoking a certificate, wherein revoking the certificate comprises:  
authenticating said first user; and  
forwarding said request to a Certificate Processing Server.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

one or more communications interfaces;

one or more storage devices; and

one or more processors in communication with said one or more storage devices and said one or more communication interfaces, said one or more processors perform a method comprising:

receiving at an Identity System a request for a first certificate related action for a first user wherein the first certificate related action is selected from a group consisting of a certificate enrollment action, a certificate renewal action, and a certificate revocation action;

retrieving by the Identity System a first workflow for responding to said request from a plurality of workflows for responding to requests for certificate related actions, wherein each workflow in said plurality of workflows corresponds to a different set of characteristics for a user, wherein the first workflow contains a first set of directives and a second workflow in said

plurality of workflows contains a second set of directives, wherein said first set of directives is different from said second set of directives, wherein said first workflow calls for obtaining an approval before performing a certificate related action for users having a first user type, wherein said second workflow does not call for obtaining an approval before performing a certificate related action for users having a second user type, and wherein retrieving the first workflow further comprises selecting the first workflow from the plurality of workflows based on the first certificate related action and a user type of the first user from a set of characteristics for the first user from an identity profile for the first user maintained by the Identity System being the first user type; ~~and~~

performing said first workflow, wherein performing said first workflow comprises retrieving an approval response from an entity associated with the first user and identified in the identity profile for the first user and obtaining a certificate and a real time status for the certificate from a certificate authority based on the approval response; and

storing the certificate and said real time status in the Identity System, wherein the certificate authority is external to the Identity System.

28.-30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said method further comprises:

receiving said plurality of workflows.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said method further comprises:

receiving a second request for a second certificate related action for a second user wherein the second certificate related action is selected from a group consisting of a certificate enrollment action, a certificate renewal action, and a certificate revocation action;

retrieving the second workflow for responding to said second request from said plurality of workflows, wherein retrieving the second workflow further comprises selecting the second workflow from the plurality of workflows based on the second certificate related action a

user type of the second user from a set of characteristics for the second user from an identity profile for the second user maintained by the Identity System being the second user type; and performing said second workflow, wherein performing said second workflow comprises:

obtaining a second certificate without retrieving an approval response.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein said first certificate related action is a certificate enrollment action and said second certificate related action is a certificate enrollment action.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said method further comprises:

performing said first workflow, wherein said first certificate related action is a certificate enrollment action and wherein performing said first workflow comprises:

obtaining a certificate, wherein obtaining the certificate comprises:

authenticating said first user;

forwarding said request to a Certificate Processing Server;

receiving said certificate; and

storing said certificate.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said method further comprises:

performing said first workflow, wherein said first certificate related action is a certificate renewal action and wherein performing said first workflow comprises:

obtaining a certificate, wherein obtaining the certificate comprises:

authenticating said first user;

forwarding said request to a Certificate Processing Server; and

receiving a certificate renewal acknowledgement.



36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said method further comprises:

performing said first workflow, wherein said first certificate related action is a certificate revocation action and wherein performing said first workflow comprises:

revoking a certificate, wherein revoking the certificate comprises:

authenticating said first user; and

forwarding said request to a Certificate Processing Server.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a first request for a first certificate related action for a first user;

retrieving a first workflow for responding to said first request from a plurality of workflows,

wherein each workflow in said plurality of workflows corresponds to a different set of characteristics for a user,

wherein said first workflow calls for obtaining an approval before performing a certificate related action for users having a first user type,

wherein a second workflow of the plurality of workflows does not call for obtaining an approval before performing a certificate related action for users having a second user type, and

wherein retrieving the first workflow for responding to said first request further comprises selecting the first workflow from the plurality of workflows based on the first certificate related action and a user type of the first user being the first user type;

performing said first workflow, wherein performing said first workflow comprises retrieving an approval response from an entity associated with the first user and obtaining a first certificate and a real time status for the first certificate from a certificate authority based on the approval response;

storing the first certificate and said real time status for the first certificate in the Identity System, wherein the certificate authority is external to the Identity System;

receiving a second request for a second certificate related action for a second user;  
retrieving said second workflow for responding to said second request from said plurality of workflows, wherein retrieving the second workflow for responding to said second request further comprises selecting the second workflow from the plurality of workflows based on the second certificate related action and a user type of the second user being the second user type; ~~and~~

performing said second workflow, wherein performing said second workflow comprises obtaining a second certificate and a real time status for the second certificate from the certificate authority without retrieving an approval response; and

storing the second certificate and said real time status for the second certificate in the Identity System.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, further comprising:  
receiving said plurality of workflows.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein said first certificate related action and said second certificate related action call for the same certificate related action.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein receiving the first request, retrieving the first workflow, performing the first workflow, receiving the second request, retrieving the second workflow, and performing the second workflow are performed by an Identity System in communication with an Access System.

43. (Currently Amended) One or more processor readable storage devices having processor readable code embodied on said processor readable storage devices, said processor readable code for programming one or more processors to perform a method comprising:

receiving a first request for a first certificate related action for a first user;

retrieving a first workflow for responding to said first request from a plurality of workflows,

wherein each workflow in said plurality of workflows corresponds to a different set of characteristics for a user,

wherein said first workflow calls for obtaining an approval before performing a certificate related action for users having a first user type,

wherein a second workflow of the plurality of workflows does not call for obtaining an approval before performing a certificate related action for users having a second user type, and

wherein retrieving the first workflow for responding to said first request further comprises selecting the first workflow from the plurality of workflows based on the first certificate related action and a user type of the first user being the first user type;

performing said first workflow, wherein performing said first workflow comprises retrieving an approval response from an entity associated with the first user and obtaining a first certificate and a real time status for the first certificate from a certificate authority based on the approval response;

storing the first certificate and said real time status for the first certificate in the Identity System, wherein the certificate authority is external to the Identity System;

receiving a second request for a second certificate related action for a second user;

retrieving said second workflow for responding to said second request from said plurality of workflows, wherein retrieving the second workflow for responding to said second request further comprises selecting the second workflow from the plurality of workflows based on the second certificate related action and a user type of the second user being the second user type; ~~and~~

performing said second workflow, wherein performing said second workflow comprises obtaining a second certificate and a real time status for the second certificate from the certificate authority without retrieving an approval response; and

storing the second certificate and said real time status for the second certificate in the Identity System.

44. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 43, wherein said method further comprises:  
receiving said plurality of workflows.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 43, wherein said first certificate related action and said second certificate related action call for the same certificate related action.

47. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 43, wherein receiving the first request, retrieving the first workflow, performing the first workflow, receiving the second request, retrieving the second workflow, and performing the second workflow are performed by an Identity System in communication with an Access System.

48. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
one or more communications interfaces;  
one or more storage devices; and  
one or more processors in communication with said one or more storage devices and said one or more communication interfaces, said one or more processors perform a method comprising:

receiving a first request for a first certificate related action for a first user;  
retrieving a first workflow for responding to said first request from a plurality of workflows,

wherein each workflow in said plurality of workflows corresponds to a different set of characteristics for a user,

wherein said first workflow calls for obtaining an approval before performing a certificate related action for users having a first user type,

wherein a second workflow of the plurality of workflows does not call for obtaining an approval before performing a certificate related action for users having a second user type, and

wherein retrieving the first workflow for responding to said first request further comprises selecting the first workflow from the plurality of workflows based on the first certificate related action and a user type of the first user being the first user type;

performing said first workflow, wherein performing said first workflow comprises retrieving an approval response from an entity associated with the first user and obtaining a first certificate and a real time status for the first certificate from a certificate authority based on the approval response;

storing the first certificate and said real time status for the first certificate in the Identity System, wherein the certificate authority is external to the Identity System;

receiving a second request for a second certificate related action for a second user;

retrieving said second workflow for responding to said second request from said plurality of workflows, wherein retrieving the second workflow for responding to said second request further comprises selecting the second workflow from the plurality of workflows based on the second certificate related action and a user type of the second user being the second user type; ~~and~~

performing said second workflow, wherein performing said second workflow comprises obtaining a second certificate and a real time status for the second certificate from the certificate authority without retrieving an approval response; and

storing the second certificate and said real time status for the second certificate in the Identity System.

49. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein said method further comprises:

receiving said plurality of workflows.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein said first certificate related action and said second certificate related action call for the same certificate related action.

52. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein receiving the first request, retrieving the first workflow, performing the first workflow, receiving the second request, retrieving the second workflow, and performing the second workflow are performed by an Identity System in communication with an Access System.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein obtaining an approval response comprises applying a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) filter to attributes of the identity profile for the first user.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the entity associated with the first user comprises a third user.

Please add the following new claims:

55. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
storing validation information for said certificate in the Identity System, wherein said validation information includes an identifier of a time said real time status was retrieved and a validation interval for said real time status;  
receiving at the Identity System a request to export the certificate;  
determining with the Identity System whether to check a status for said certificate, wherein determining whether to check the status for the certificate comprises querying a parameter field in the Identity System; and  
in response to determining to check the status for said certificate, determining with the Identity System whether to check the status for the certificate in real time, wherein determining whether to check the status for the certificate in real time comprises querying a parameter field in the Identity System.

56. (New) The one or more processor readable storage devices of claim 16, wherein the method further comprises:

storing validation information for said certificate in the Identity System, wherein said validation information includes an identifier of a time said real time status was retrieved and a validation interval for said real time status;

receiving at the Identity System a request to export the certificate;

determining with the Identity System whether to check a status for said certificate, wherein determining whether to check the status for the certificate comprises querying a parameter field in the Identity System; and

in response to determining to check the status for said certificate, determining with the Identity System whether to check the status for the certificate in real time, wherein determining whether to check the status for the certificate in real time comprises querying a parameter field in the Identity System.

57. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said method further comprises: storing validation information for said certificate in the Identity System, wherein said validation information includes an identifier of a time said real time status was retrieved and a validation interval for said real time status;

receiving at the Identity System a request to export the certificate;

determining with the Identity System whether to check a status for said certificate, wherein determining whether to check the status for the certificate comprises querying a parameter field in the Identity System; and

in response to determining to check the status for said certificate, determining with the Identity System whether to check the status for the certificate in real time, wherein determining whether to check the status for the certificate in real time comprises querying a parameter field in the Identity System.